



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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April 25, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK 340-3-4

SUBJECT: SPA - Progress Reporting in PRMS

Purpose: To provide guidance on reporting 590, 595, and 449 in PRMS.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

Following is an issue raised at the recent Quality Leadership Team (QLT) Meeting. A solution was proposed by a QLT Subcommittee. I find their proposal acceptable and will begin implementing it immediately.

Issue: Many acres of Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), and Irrigation Water Management (449) are accomplished each year by Oklahoma producers. These practices are planned by NRCS, or our conservation partners, but are often times applied independently by producers without additional technical assistance, cost-share, or incentive payments. Field staffs have indicated difficulty in reaching PRMS goals for these three items, due to documentation requirements in GM450, Part 407.

Decision: When NRCS staff identify these practices in the field, are satisfied the practice meets NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and achieves the desired result, they may report in PRMS without additional documentation. This only applies when there is no cost-share or incentive payment involved and a note is made in the plan that the practice meets standards.

Reasons for this decision: The efforts needed to document all necessary items (per GM 450, Part 407) would not be the best use of staff time and resources. We are still following PRMS Policy when in the opinion of the NRCS staff the practice still meets NRCS Practice Standards. It allows staff more time to expedite and deliver farm bill programs and could even allow us to increase goals for these three practices.

I feel this decision is in the best interest of our agency and still allows us to apply quality conservation practices without compromising our standards or other documentation requirements.

In summary, the practices Nutrient Management, Pest Management, and Irrigation Water Management, may be reported in PRMS without documentation required in GM450, Part 407, as long as the practice is not a cost share or incentive payment, and the NRCS staff documents in the plan that the practice meets Standards and Specification.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Darrel Dominick".

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

DIST: AE